

an individual demanding special concern. In addition to its ongoing refugee admission policy, designed to select convention refugees on a continuing basis without geographical restrictions, Canada in 1978 undertook a number of special refugee acceptance programs in response to humanitarian needs in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. The Canadian Government sees its refugee resettlement plans as a very significant contribution to the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Nonetheless, Canada has in addition made direct contributions to the UNHCR in 1978 totalling 2.5 million Canadian dollars, including a \$500,000 contribution to the UNHCR's program for relief operations for Indo-Chinese refugees in Thailand. We are looking forward to continuing close cooperation between the Government of Canada and the High Commissioner, and I should again like to repeat our hope that the international community as a whole will increasingly share in efforts to bring relief to the sufferings of those most victimized by political turbulence.

5. RIGHTS OF WOMEN

During her address to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on November 15, 1978, the Canadian Delegate, Sylvia Gelber, O.C., discussed the body of Canadian law designed to guarantee fairer and more just conditions for women. She also described briefly the present situation for Canadian women in the working environment and in higher education. Canada supported the World Plan of Action for women and expressed its willingness to contribute multilaterally and bilaterally toward improving the conditions of society both for women and people in general. The Canadian Delegate made the following comments on the subject:

The stated policy of the Government of Canada, and indeed of the governments of all the jurisdictions in the Canadian confederation, is one of commitment to the principle of full equality for women and men in all spheres of Canadian life. If there is still a wide gap between the policy as stated and the condition as practiced, then it is due in no small part to the persistence in these latter days of the twentieth century, of customs and traditions not yet attuned to a society transformed by science and technology. Our world has changed but our old attitudes too often still linger. Canada of course is not unique in this regard.

The unprecedented influx of women into the labour force, particularly during the last decade, has brought into clear focus the reluctance of contemporary society not only fully to utilize the potential of women but also the reluctance to provide for them a fair and just environment. In an effort to remedy these deficiencies, Canada has placed on the statute books a body of law designed to expedite the achievement of greater equity in society. The law is not in itself the single tool which can immediately bring about changes in communal attitudes. This is particularly relevant with regard to matters pertaining to the changing status of women in contemporary society.

As in other industrial countries, women are generally employed in some five or six occupations generally if not always in the low-paying and unorganized sectors of the workforce. Nevertheless, there has recently been visible in Canada substantial change in the area of higher